

USACHPPM PA's Hard at Work

MAJ Phillip Cosby, Occupational Medicine Program (Program 65), USACHPPM

The Physician Assistant assigned to OMP, CHPPM serves as project officer (PO) addressing medical issues identified in Health Hazard Assessment Reports (HHAR) for various military equipment systems in support of Army Material Acquisition Decision Process. The objective of the program is to enhance soldier performance and readiness by minimizing the effects of health hazards in the workplace to include field operations. . The OMP PA is also part of a CHPPM team that has participated in site visits involved in analysis of workers compensation claim data to identify installations that are outliers in new injury claim rate. Reports are then generated detailing the causes and nature of injuries and shared with the installations to assist them in developing preventive strategies. The OMP promoted the goal of a three percent reduction by educating occupational health clinicians about their role in installation-level Federal Employee Compensation Act (FECA) committees, case management teams, Safety and Occupational Health Advisory Councils (SOHACs), and ergonomics subcommittees.

In the Injury Prevention Program (Program 12), CPT Roberto Marin was the principle investigator on a study examining the Surveillance of Illness/Injury rates and the associated risk factors during deployments to the National Training Center (NTC), Ft. Irwin, CA. He is also coordinating injury/illness surveillance with the 2/70th Armor Battalion (Ft Riley KS) and will compare in-garrison to in-theatre injury/illness rates. The 2/70th Armor Battalion was recently deployed to Iraq for OIF. CPT Marin also took part in the evaluation of the TRADOC Standardized Physical Training Program for Basic Combat Training. The TRADOC program developed by the US Army Physical Fitness School and was administered to over 1000 basic trainees during several BCT cycles. CPT Marin evaluated the program for its effects on attrition, fitness and injuries. In addition, a questionnaire was developed to obtain the opinions of basic trainers with regard to the new program and this questionnaire was administered to almost 80% of the cadre. CPT Marin has recently departed to Ft Hood TX in preparation for deployment to Iraq with the 1st Calvary.